



Minnesota Board of Teaching

February 26, 2014

Dear School Partners,

The Minnesota Board of Teaching is committed to ensuring that our students are served by well prepared and highly effective teachers. As an integral part of this commitment, we strongly support the use of the edTPA teacher performance assessment to better prepare Minnesota teachers for classroom instruction and the promotion of student growth.

Minnesota educators have partnered with Stanford University since 2010 to lead the nation in the development of the edTPA, a multiple-measure assessment tool aligned to state and national standards, including the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS). In order for teacher candidates to fully demonstrate readiness to become teachers, they must submit a portfolio of artifacts from classroom instruction, a video-recorded instruction component, examples of student work, and planning and assessment documentation.

Minnesota §122A.09 Subd. 4(c) requires teacher preparation programs to "...include a content-specific, board-approved, performance-based assessment that measures teacher candidates in three areas: planning for instruction and assessment; engaging students and supporting learning; and assessing student learning." Beginning January 1, 2014, teacher preparation programs throughout the state have been required to conduct the edTPA with every teacher candidate.

We ask that schools and school districts join us in supporting teacher candidates who will be completing the edTPA process. Your support is critical in these key ways.

- Support teacher candidates in completing the edTPA by **reviewing policies for the use of video** in your classrooms to ensure that current district procedures for obtaining parental permission are adequate and by working with candidates to secure parental permission.
- **Collaborate with teacher preparation programs** in ensuring mutually beneficial student teaching placements. Well-integrated student teaching experiences help to foster candidate success in the edTPA process and contribute to veteran teacher professional development.
- Cooperating teachers in your schools can assist teacher candidates by **providing practical support, feedback, and assistance** during their student teaching experiences.

The strong preparation of Minnesota's teacher candidates depends on the knowledge, insight and cooperation of your districts, schools, and teachers. It is our hope that you will join us in support of the edTPA process by working with teacher preparation programs to ensure beginning teachers are prepared to enter successful careers in teaching our students. For additional information and support resources, please visit the MN edTPA website: <http://www.edtpaminnesota.org/>.

We look forward to continued collaboration across the profession, to ensure that Minnesota provides the best possible preparation for our teachers and their students.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of John Bellingham in cursive.

John Bellingham
Chairman

Handwritten signature of Erin R. Doan in cursive.

Erin R. Doan
Interim Executive Director